



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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JUNE 1933

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No. 12

HIGHWAY PLANTING

By K. O. Sessions

Now that the new highway road is being rapidly constructed on the east side of Mission Bay as the extension of the Rose Canyon road and to connect with Atlantic street, the question of how to improve the surroundings and make it an attractive entrance road to the city, needs serious consideration. It will be a unique entrance and needs special and unique treatment, as there will never be any residences or attractive business establishments along the greater part of the road, because of the nature of the surroundings.

Rose Canyon can support a good row of trees on one side only. The first section in Pacific Beach for about one-eighth of a mile, trees on both sides of the road could be established, but the long stretch near the bay and beside the bay and over the level overflowed lands of the bay, with the Santa Fe railroad track on the east side, must have a special treatment.

The Mesembryanthemum is a plant that flourishes near the sea, is hardy and spreading, covering large areas, is full of brilliant colors at different seasons of the year and is not particular regarding soils. It requires no stakes to keep it in shape and practically little if any water. While it is being established some ground weed clearing would be its principal care as many varieties can be planted as cuttings. Its fine green color in most of the varieties is excellent. There are some winter bloomers, some few ever bloomers and the majority are spring and summer bloomers.

The fresh raw and bare sides of the newly constructed roadway would make favorable planting conditions and when established would become a preserver of the sides of the road, preventing slides and washouts.

The fact that the Mesembryanthemum will not flourish where there is much frost or even a little snow makes it a novelty for the tourist and attractive in its great variety. It would

be the most economical plant to get established and the very least expense to maintain.

The Causeway road connecting Crown Point with the mainland has two sections filled across the water and both of these should have their sides decorated with Mesembryanthemums. It would give a more pleasing effect than trees for the soil conditions and exposed salty position would be too serious a handicap and too expensive to change.

Plantings on any highway should be kept in good condition else it becomes an eyesore and a blemish.

All the highway planting of trees in and about San Diego has been unsatisfactory because of the poor care it has received. There are too many neglected and deformed trees. In the future maintenance of what has been planted—rather than to do more planting for the next few years is what should be attended to by competent and interested workers. It is interesting and easy to plant. It is work to maintain what is planted.

The city has watered and fertilized and kept weeds down about many of the trees but poor staking and neglectful tying and no pruning has kept the trees growing into deformities. The excuse no doubt is that there has been too much work and too little help. Why not make some one highway perfect—rather than attempt many and make a failure of all?

All interior highways should favor the native Oak, the native Sycamore and some Pines and the Incense Cedar. The Eucalyptus where soil conditions are favorable—where there are fills of loose soil or favorable good soil, selecting the drought-resisting varieties. All Eucalyptus need some pruning every two or three years—in the spring.

All Acacias should be condemned—they re-

quire too much care, of staking and yearly pruning after the blossoms have faded.

Another colorful plant that flourishes with the least of attention and is a success near the sea coast is the *Statice sinuata* and as itself sows and spreads itself, keeping down most of the objectionable weeds, it is easy to maintain.

The *Rhus integrifolia* can be planted by seeds if done intelligently and in time a hedge-like border of a robust growing shrub will become a fine asset to the Coast highways. These shrubs are full of green seed at this time of the year and much should be gathered for early fall planting.

K. O. Sessions.

SYCAMORE TREE "B T S D 6"

By Ruth R. Nelson

"Cor. from which a Sycamore tree B T S D 6 in Creek bed bears S 44° W 77 lks," thus read the symbols which defined the northernmost corner of the two adjacent tracts of land comprising the old 8824.71-acre San Dieguito Land Grant, now known as Rancho Santa Fe. The words may be found upon the interesting old map, dated March 8th, 1870, which was prepared for the U. S. Surveyor General's Office at San Francisco. It is signed by Sherman Day, U. S. Surv. Gen. Cala; and confirms to the widow Juliana L. Osuna et al, the Rancho San Dieguito as it was first granted to her husband by the Mexican Government in 1836. This piece of land was one of the few grants which remained intact after the United States possessed California, and in this case it is evident that the sycamore tree chosen by Don Juan Osuna to mark his northern corner, still remained there, an indisputable boundary mark when the grant was re-surveyed. This spot is a remote and inaccessible part of the present project, and is seldom visited. Whether there were then other notable sycamores in this same vicinity, we have not been able to discover, but we do know that appreciation of the Sycamore also carried over into the newer generation. For the first Gringo school district formed in this locality received its name from these fine old native trees. The "Aliso District" it was called; "aliso" being the old Spanish-American word for Sycamore.

But while the famous landmark sycamore remains hidden in a far-off canyon bed, several other stalwart sycamores command the attention in the more frequented parts of the Rancho. One of these ancient trees overhangs the paved highway which now passes close to

the old adobe home of the Osunas. Another rears its hoary trunk on the southern boundary line of the ranch, where the County road now swings through a newly made cut, and joins the present valley road leading toward the village. A tribute should be paid to the road-builders in this instance. For they carefully preserved this splendid old sycamore which has every appearance of being a tree of ancient lineage. Each part of its great trunk is huge and old, its twisted branches reaching far upwards to overshadow the steep hillside against which it leans.

Our native sycamore is a tree of solitary habits. It seems never to grow in copses like the willows and cottonwoods amongst which it often stands, its ghostly dignity and angular erectness dwarfing all the surrounding trees. Yet sometimes the sycamore assumes strangely sprawling attitudes, with wayward branches reaching far and wide to prove their sturdy spirit. For this is a tree which attains centuries of growth, and is always beautiful, whether in full leaf during the summer time, or naked throughout the winter. During the month just past (December) the valley sycamores displayed their loveliest mood. Their leaves, though turning brown, yet clung to the trees with true autumnal vigor, and transformed every stalwart sycamore into a shimmering golden pillar which arrested the eye with its startling beauty.

We would like to know that more of our *native* sycamores are being planted by those who love trees. We do not wish to see them placed in rows for street plantings, but set out here and there in accordance with their naturally lonely habits, and in locations where they may hope to be left to attain the long life which they deserve. Thus the southern sycamore, the *aliso* of the old time, becomes a tree which will furnish both interest and beauty wherever it is used.

ASTER FRUTICOSA

Aster Fruticosa, a true shrub, from South Africa. One of the choicest and most beautiful introductions in recent years, now with me a mass of rosy mauve single flowers, resembling our Michaelmas Daisy. This is a plant that should be in every garden. My plant is about three years old from seed, is about three feet high and four feet through. I think we are indebted to Eric Walther of Golden Gate Park for the introduction of this beautiful plant.

Hugh Evans.

LA COLLINA RIDENTE

By C. I. Jerabeck

It was during five of those beautiful California days in April, that Mrs. Herbert S. Evans graciously opened her fairyland garden on Plumosa Way to the flower minded people of San Diego. The opening days, April 20 and 21, were given over to the San Diego Floral Society. On these days an added attraction was featured by the marvelous display of Mr. Alfred Mitchell's beautiful paintings among the floral settings.

Along three sides of Mrs. Evans' garden is a high wall, but this is no detriment to the place, for draping over the wall softening its harsh appearance are 25 or more of supremely gorgeous climbing roses. Many of the old standbys are included, Lady Hillingdon, Hoosier Beauty, Golden Emblem, Rose Marie, Mrs. A. Waddell, Mme. Caroline Testout, Los Angeles, Belle of Portugal and many later varieties including Pres. Hoover. The yellow Banksia seemed to surpass all its companions in number of blossoms but the Belle of Portugal came a close second and far outdid it for the magnificence of its flowers.

In the narrow strip between the wall and street, not only are old associates found but many newer varieties are encountered, these as well as the climbers were at their best and a scene of indescribable beauty.

Coming around the corner of the wall a general view of the residence appeared, the walk that approached the main entrance was edged with baby roses and white pansies, where the wall and house met a delightful triangle is created by two stately *Dracena australis*, a beautiful *Ligustrum lucidum*, with its dark, glossy green foliage and dense panicles of white flowers and clustered at their base are several kind of handsome ferns, these forming a pleasing approach to the enclosed garden.

Over the gateway another lovely rose was clambering, sending out its pale yellow blossoms in gracious greetings to welcome all visitors.

Inside the entrance a wall fountain attracted attention, by the tinkling of the water dripping from pool to pool. On both sides of the walk are tree roses, exquisite Camelias and *Daphne Odora*. A bed on the right extended to the opposite wall and contained brilliant hued *Cinerarias* with a border of dainty forget-me-nots intermixed with Peachblossom Pink Tulips.

Across a small verdant lawn is a quaint little pool, ornamented by a miniature water baby. Bordering the foreground of this pool are Sweet Alyssum, *Ageratum*, *Calocephalus* Brownie and Prostate Juniper. At the rear was a bushy Marguerite Daisy, a clump of *Strelitzia Reginae*, "Bird of Paradise Flower," (on which I counted 19 heads of its curious blossoms), and towering above its companions *Cyperus papyrus*, Egyptian Paper Reed or Moses Bulrush, with its airy thread-like leaves borne on graceful stems and directly beneath stands a magnificent Italian torquoise vase.

At the side of the wall is a stone bench and ramping together forming a background the pink and white flowers of the Cherokee roses gave the effect of a beautiful portiere.

Beyond the pool two large *Leptospermum Laevigatum* (Australian Tea Tree), are spreading their arching branches (which at this time were covered with a profusion of small white flowers), forming a natural canopy, underneath this and scattered about the lawn were comfortable settee, reclining chairs and handsome vases adding pleasing notes of color, these together creating a most charming out-door living room, where the owner may relax or enjoy afternoon tea with her friends.

Near the side entrance a bed of *Mimulus Tigrinus*, with their lushness of foliage and spotted or blotched yellow flowers, and the yellow bloom of the *Pollanthis* added a charm of contrast so vivid to the colors of the robust iris *Realga* and *Le Verrier*.

From a hillside stone terrace a superb view of the garden below can be had, now two *Ceanothus Arborea* (one of the loveliest of native shrubs), showed their feathery, heavenly blue blossoms, and a brush of *Echium Fastuosum* reared its spikes of handsome indigo blue flowers skyward, in a secluded place the yellow flowers of *Berberis Nevini* could be seen amongst the foliage of other shrubs, intermingling were flaming *Aloes*, delicate hued Iris, red *Centranthus*, white blossoms of *Watsonias*, *Geraniums*, and the yellow flowers of the ornamental strawberries, *Duchesnea Indica*.

After viewing the garden from this place we walked on a few steps and beheld one of the loveliest sights imaginable, two or three varieties of *Multijuga Wisteria* over-running a pergola and hanging over the walk were great trusses of gorgeous flowers and lovely new foli-

age creating a bower of beauty, especially in the evening when it is illuminated. Along the border of same walk are an interesting array of ferns and Helzine moss.

Descending the winding pathway we found a small pool almost hidden by ferns and the delightful flowers of *Chorizema Illicifolia*. Creeping in and out among the rocks are the sky blue Morning Glory (*Convolvulus Mauritanicus*), Purple Violets, deep yellow Buttercups (*Ranunculus Repens*), little airy daisy-like flowers of *Vittadinia Australis* and *Aloe Ciliaris* with its firecracker-like blossoms.

Farther into the canyon a bush of extreme delicacy attracted attention, a wild gooseberry (*Ribes Speciosum*), that was sending forth its bright red fushia shaped flowers on pendulous branches. Pausing, we glanced backward up the steep slope which resembled a woodland glen, with its tree and shrub covered banks, underneath, forming a charming mat were ferns, tulips, wallflowers and English ivy. Then going down the pathway we came to a group of Washington Robusta palms partly surrounded by native shrubs. Due to the quietness and peacefulness of this lovely spot I thought it would take little imagination to have one's fancy roaming through a wonderland quite as romantic as Alice's.

REPORT OF THE MAY MEETING

By Ada Perry

The garden lovers who listened to Frank F. Gander at the May meeting of the Floral Association will find it hard to throw away or otherwise destroy wild plants found in their gardens in the future.

Mr. Gander brought with him a case full of specimens of wild growth and in his talk emphasized something useful and beautiful about each one of them. Even the humble pickleweed was recommended for growing near fish ponds, the common ladyfinger succulent for rocky places and green miner's lettuce for moist places.

Valuable natives mentioned by Mr. Gander included the Torrey pine, which is used by New Zealand as well as California landscapers; the fine incense cedar from our mountains and the yuccas and the century plant.

The native *Woodwardia* fern stays green all winter, he said, and the silver and gold backed ferns were fine for rock gardens.

Besides the wild lilac, wild cherry, toyon berry and lemonade berry, already well known native shrubs in cultivation, Mr. Gander also

mentioned the not so well known chamiso, spice bush or native citrus, sumach and fuchsia flowered gooseberry. He mentioned the yerba santa but not favorably. It spreads too viciously, he said.

The tree poppy and matilija poppy were brought up, of course, and in addition to them and their merits in our gardens Mr. Gander also listed the tree mallow and the wild sweet pea.

He suggested cultivating cream cups for cutting, as well as California poppies. Other pretty things he named were yellow evening primrose, pepper root, red maids and mission bells. These last have been known to increase their number of blooms more than five times in cultivation, according to him. Some more interesting small plants on his list were turkish rugging, grass iris, native iceplant, sand verben, dudleya and alkali heath. He cited deerweed and monkey flower as a very good wild combination of flowers and put the lupins down as a flower with a variety for every part of the garden.

After Mr. Gander's talk Miss Sessions held her regular "session," which many regard as the salad course of every Floral Association meeting. She announced the gratifying and somewhat astonishing fact that our native lilac, the ceanothus, is coming to be regarded as the finest blue flowering shrub in existence anywhere. She had some specimens with her and they were fine, thick clusters that showed seed and flowers on the same branch. Miss Sessions strongly emphasized ceanothus cyaneus as the one every San Diegan should have in his garden and recommended arborea as a wonderful thing to make a tree from by directing the center stem and heading in the side branches.

Miss Sessions brought with her a fresh, attractive bouquet of wild things arranged by one of her friends. She also presented three interesting flowers from the platform. They were the Agnes Gault hibiscus, nearly as big as a plate and a wonderful flame salmon in color; the hollyhock type watsonia, very attractive in floral arrangement and pure pink in color; and a red blossom of *phylocactus ackermani*.

Mr. Gage of Encinitas had also sent Miss Sessions a great box of baby gladiolus of at least a dozen different hues, not one of which was white. The flowers were put in vases and set around the room. They were a wonderful sight, especially to anyone who likes baby gladiolus but deplored their former innocuous coloring.

Miss Sessions concluded her talk by showing

a picture of the new bulb rage, leucocoryne, and announcing that it, though from Chili, is a relative of our brodiaea.

Mrs. Mary Greer, president of the Floral Association, announced that after the spring show the association was not, like the House of Morgan, in arrears. She stated that the show has more than paid expenses for eleven years.

Other announcements were that June 20, the next meeting, would be the association's birthday and election date for the board of officers; and that six fine gerberas from James H. Harvey gardens of Encinitas would be waiting for the person who turned in the most new memberships to the association. Mr. Harvey's display of gerberas on the right of the entrance at the spring show will be remembered by everyone.

THE DRIVEWAY PLANTING

The proper treatment of a driveway is often a perplexing problem to the garden lover, especially if the access-way to the garage consists, as in many instances, of two narrow strips of concrete. Attempts to grass it and treat the space between the runways as part of the lawn often results in an unsightly barren or weedy patch. The cement work absorbs the heat and bakes the strip until most of us give up the attempt to make it lawn-like as a bad job. I faced just that problem and its rational solution appeared to be the making of a solid full width drive although the attendant cost was not to be lightly considered. At length I decided to tear out the lawn and try the growing of plants in the space.

The selection of plants for the purpose was given a deal of thought. They must not be too high or they would be injured by a car passing over—they must not be so delicate as to suffer when inadvertently run over by the car, for it is notorious that cars do not always stay on the driveway, especially when backing.

Plants of the mesembryanthemum group appeared to be most suitable. As the space was narrow, the plants should preferably be those with finer leaves. With these decisions the planting was started and carried to completion. As it stands today I have not had cause to regret the change.

There are undoubtedly many of the mesembryanthemum which would fulfill the requirements but as they were immediately available I selected the glaucum, aurantiacum, violaceum,

braunii, speciosum, croceum, blandum and tenuifolium. I have a mass of color—copper, purple, orange, lemon, pink, white, plum and scarlet, where before I had an unsightly area in front of the house. The species selected vary in their hours of opening and this adds not a little to our interest in the planting. I secured well rooted plants and had plenty of growth and bloom within a month. Best of all, there was little expense. A little weeding, a little water, and now I have a spot of which I am very proud.

Paul V. Tuttle.

FUCHSIA SPLENDENS

Fuchsia Splendens—also a native of Mexico—will grow to probably five or six feet in height, particularly if trained against a wall. Foliage is very healthy somewhat tomentose. The flower is rather small compared with other fuchsias. It is a very beautiful thing on account of the freedom with which it blooms on the young wood. The tube of the flower is a very vivid light scarlet with the tips a yellowish green and the stamens light yellow. This fuchsia I think requires more sunlight than most fuchsias and blooms better in such a situation. It is a very beautiful thing for a hanging basket.

Anyone who is fond of this family, and it is gratifying to see how this plant is coming back into public favor, should by all means have one in their garden.

Hugh Evans.

ABOVE THE POOL

Within the water green and bright,
Black-spotted gold fish drift, or shoot,
Around castalia,—stalk and root;
Dreaming they live,—eat, breed, and die—
In their little world with its liquid sky.

Upon that heaven in the light,
Large heart-like pads together crowd,
Like many an overcasting cloud,
And hide from the denizens of the dusk
The star-shaped flowers with haunting musk.

But now and then, with keener sight
And power not grasped by the dozing shoal,
One leaps the leaves to sense life's goal,—
Fragrance unfeigned in the nether room
And mystic beauty float over the tomb!

—Frank Hardy Lane.

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Silas B. Osborn

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
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MARY A. GREER, Chairman.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Fidelia Woodcock, the botanist of the San Diego Museum, and a loyal and valued member of the San Diego Floral Association, died April 25, after an illness of about three months.

She was so quiet and retiring in her manner of living that her large circle of friendly acquaintances did not know of her illness and only a very few friends were aware of her illness at the very last.

Miss Woodcock was keenly interested in her botanical work and always so helpful and ready to name a specimen and locate it or its varieties.

Her work at the Museum was not only as curator of the botanical collection but she maintained a wall display of named California plants which was very helpful not only to local visitors to the Museum but to the traveling tourists and visitors.

A collection of named freshly picked and collected specimens were kept on stands by the main entrance in vases.

They made many trips throughout the county and also several into Arizona and Imperial Valley.

She filled orders of desired specimens for the leading botanists and their herbariums of the United States.

She was an able, frequent and pleasing leader for the botanical walks in Balboa Park sponsored by the San Diego Museum.

The moving of the herbarium to the new building was practically her last active work and she was present for the opening of the new building in January. It seems sad that she could not have lived to enjoy the many privileges and advantages that the fine building provides.

She was a native of Maine without any near family relatives living excepting a niece in Maine, who received her ashes for internment there. The funeral service was held at 4 p. m. on April 25, well attended by her many botanical acquaintances, co-workers and friends. The many choice floral tributes were a parting gift to one who knew each and every flower so well.

MAGAZINES WANTED

Copies of the July, 1911; August, 1911; September, 1911; October, 1911; December, 1919; January, 1921; December, 1922; January, 1932, and March, 1933, issues are requested for complete files.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers

FLORAL ASSOCIATION TO VISIT ROSECROFT

Members of the San Diego Floral Association will be hosts at the Rosecroft Gardens on the afternoon of June 14, when Alfred Robinson will give his famous lecture on the building and importance of lath gardens. Club rates will be charged Floral Association members instead of the regular admittance, and those who intend to go should notify Mrs. Mary Greer for identification.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held Tuesday evening, June 20, in the club rooms in Balboa Park at 7:30 o'clock. Short reports from officers and chairmen will be followed with an address by Mr. Chas. Gibbs Adams of Pasadena, president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. In honor of the Association's anniversary, potted plants will be presented to members present and refreshments served.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION TO VISIT PRESIDIO PARK

Mr. George Marston, whose generosity and foresight has preserved for future generations the site of the early Spanish presidio through its conversion into a park and museum, will formally deliver it over to the City of San Diego in the near future. On Saturday, June 10th, from 9:30 a. m. until 12 noon, Mr. Marston will personally conduct members of the San Diego Floral Association over the park, pointing out the historical significance of the various locations. This is a kindly and generous gesture of a kindly and generous man. His many friends in the Floral Association will be honored to accept his invitation.

JUNE WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

June ushers in the summer season in San Diego County. Temperatures continue their upward march, and the days reach their maximum length and nights are shortest. Along the coast the amplitude of temperature is small because of the high humidity during the day and the overcast skies at night. There is almost complete absence of rainfall and storms, and little change in the weather from one day to the next. Mid-day is generally clear, but nights and early mornings are characterized by stratus

clouds. However, in the mountains clouds are the exception and not the rule, and day after day of mild, almost cloudless, bright weather prevails.

Occasionally, when the barometric distribution is favorable, there may be a spell of warm, very dry days when the thermometer may reach 90 degrees in the littoral, and even 100 degrees further inland. When this occurs, though, the relative humidity is invariably low, and little discomfort is experienced.

Statistics show that the average maximum temperature is 69 degrees, the minimum 59 degrees, an average daily range of only 10 degrees. One day with measurable rain may be expected, although most Junes pass without appreciable precipitation. The sunshine percentage is 62; the relative humidity 77.

LET LAWN GROW TALL TO KILL CRABGRASS

To fight crabgrass in a bluegrass lawn during the summer months, give the bluegrass a chance to grow and it will kill the invading weed, the United States Department of Agriculture says.

For this, the Department recommends letting the lawn grow from an inch and a half to two inches high and not watering it more than once a week. Set the lawn mower so it will cut the grass high, the Department suggests. A lawn will still appear even, although clipped high instead of short.

Department experiments for several years show the suggested method effective in controlling crabgrass. Government specialists found that crabgrass can thrive when clipped closely, because it spreads along the ground, but that the bluegrass must have considerable leaf growth to develop a root system to compete with crabgrass. When given a chance to grow, the bluegrass can choke out the crabgrass.

The watering recommendation also seeks to give the bluegrass the advantage. Daily surface waterings usually help the crabgrass more than the lawn grass in a closely clipped lawn. This is because the crabgrass has a better root system. This watering keeps the lawn green, but it often means that the crabgrass and not the lawn grass is being kept green. It is better to give the lawn a good soaking once a week.

To keep the bluegrass vigorous, fertilizers should be applied in early spring and early fall, when bluegrass makes its growth. Midsummer applications merely encourage the crabgrass. A complete fertilizer high in nitrogen, such as 6:8:4, is recommended.

THE RARE BLUE POPPY

How to Raise *Meconopsis Baileyi* From Seed

By E. Hoyroyd Page, Malvern, Vic.

Much has been written recently about the Blue Poppy from Thibet (*Meconopsis Baileyi*) regarding the growing of it from seed. Having raised this rare and lovely plant from seed by the thousand, I may justify my claim to a knowledge of its requirements, so I will give to readers of the "Garden Lover," who are particularly keen to raise this plant, an outline of the methods by which they can easily gain success.

The cool spring and summer of the past year have been very favorable to the growth of this plant, and many readers who followed my instructions, published in the "Garden Lover" of January last year, were successful in bringing this rare flower to perfection in Melbourne. Whether it be in the sandy soil of Caulfield, the medium heavy soil of Glen Iris and Camberwell, or the red soil of Sassafra or Macedon, the instruction given, if followed, led to success.

When I first heard of this plant, nurserymen told me they could not even germinate the seed, let alone grow the plant. That settled it. I immediately cabled to England for supplies of seed and set to work. No, not in my garden, but in my study. For a whole month I studied the geography of Thibet and read every book about this country I could procure, so that by the time the seed arrived I was prepared to put my observations into practice. Raisers of this plant in England sow the seed in spring and are successful, but that will not do in this country. I have proved by practical experience that autumn is the right time here, as our summer is too hot for the young plants to make good growth.

Having made a well-drained seedbed with some maiden peaty soil, the seed was sown in a cool southerly position in March. After sowing the seed it was pressed down firmly with a flat piece of wood and covered with a slight covering of sandy leaf mould sieved through a fly wire sieve, and well watered. When watering the seedbed I put into operation the result of my study during the previous month, and gave them the nearest approach to the water they would receive in their homeland—water containing iron and nitrogen. The water used contained a teaspoonful of sulphate of iron and one teaspoonful of Floramid (a highly con-

centrated manure containing 46 per cent. of soluble nitrogen and obtainable now in Victoria) to every two gallons. This I found to be the key to the successful germinating of the seed here, as in Thibet this plant is found in the valleys at high altitudes in an ironstone region. This means that the water in their natural home is charged with iron (from the rocks) and nitrogen (from the air). The iron, I found, too, builds up the plant to resist the attacks of mildew and damping off, so prevalent in the Poppy family. I have used this method too both with Iceland Poppies (Siberia) and *Primula* (Western China).

When watering, use a water-can with a fine rose, as these Poppies love 'water lightly sprinkled over their leaves, which are covered with tiny hairs to catch moisture and keep them cool. With the above method the seed germinated in less than three weeks (98 per cent). I have heard it recently said that the failure of seed to germinate might lie in the fact that it is imported. With my method of watering, I have tried both English and fresh local seed, and there was not the slightest difference either in their germination or their subsequent growth.

When the young plants have four leaves they should be pricked out from the seedbed into three-inch pots containing any good potting soil which does not get too dry. A little leaf mould or moss will do in these pots for drainage. When potting the plants, see that the crown of the plant is kept a little higher than the soil in the pot. Keep the pots in a shady position and water with the same solution as you watered the seedbeds. It is really marvelous how much nitrogen these plants will take.

About two months later shift into five-inch pots, where the young Poppies remain until required for planting out into the garden. Of course, seedlings can be directly planted from the seedbeds into their permanent positions in the garden, but I find they do not make such sturdy plants as quickly as in pots.

Remember that these plants are perfectly hardy in the sense that no cold can harm them.

Unlike most perennials, they grow in the winter and spring, and are dormant in summer. Positions in the garden generally given

to Hydrangeas, Azaleas, Rhododendrons or similar plants suit them admirably. My experience has been that it is not so much the soil as the position that matters most. They are very happy growing under conditions resembling that of a thin woodland, where large deciduous trees cast a gentle shade over them. Light, however, is of importance, and such trees should be relieved of their lower branches in order that sufficient light may penetrate to the plants. If you cannot provide such a position, try and find one offering the nearest resemblance.

A leafy soil is desirable (though not essential), such as two parts decayed leaf mould to two parts good sandy loam with a little cow manure. If mountain soil can be provided so much the better. In that case see that some coarse grit is incorporated with the soil, also a very little superphosphate. Given these conditions, the plants will grow rapidly and become almost as large as Cabbages, carrying in addition to the large central spike of bloom many large side growths bearing their quota of handsome flowers.

Of course this Poppy can be successfully grown in cool borders containing a proportion of lime in the soil, but lime is certainly not essential, and from my observations the plant is happiest where lime does not exist. Shelter from wind is desirable, and this is one of the reasons why it does so well in woodland clearings. Position counts for a good deal, and if this is carefully chosen success is certain. I will ever remember the thrill I received in November last year, when in answer to a telephone call I stood before a plant of this lovely flower in full bloom in a garden in Caulfield no, not Macedon, and felt that I had at least done something toward placing such a lovely mountain flower within even the reach of the average suburban gardener.

To convey to readers some idea of how quickly this plant accustoms itself to new conditions, I will just mention that in England, where it is slightly cooler than here, three years ago it was almost unknown. Now strong seedlings are offered there by nurserymen at 15/- per 100. So easily do the seeds germinate in their new home, that on the ground under the parent plants the young seedlings spring up in the same manner as *Primula malacoides* do here. The blooms are borne on strong stems two feet high, last for about three weeks when cut, and are excellent for table decoration.

In the warmer districts, if any difficulty is

found in growing *Meconopsis Baileyi*, I would recommend a trial be given of *Meconopsis Wallichii*, a light blue variety of a bushier type and able to stand slightly warmer conditions. It comes from Northern India. I have seen plants of this variety growing around Melbourne over four feet high and carrying over 100 blooms. It has very handsome foliage with finely cut leaves covered with golden hairs and makes a fine plant even without bloom. It is a sturdy grower. When planting this variety, remember that position is all-important, namely, south. This variety can also be successfully grown in pots.

Perhaps my readers would like to compare the methods used here with those in America. The following is a letter which appeared in "Horticulture," a Boston garden journal, of December, 1932, under the title of "Treatment of *Meconopsis* Seedlings":—"I have known many who have been successful in bringing the Blue Poppy into flower and but a few who have failed. I wonder why. My seed was purchased from many sources in England, and I am convinced that failure is not due to the source of supply. The methods followed must be wrong, then, when these plants refuse to grow. My experience may prove of value. The seed having been purchased in the autumn, a compost is made of leaf mould and sand. Drainage is essential, and the compost must be sufficiently porous to allow water to immediately disappear when applied. I use a two-inch deep box with the soil well formed and watered.

"The seed is applied broadcast over the surface and covered lightly with a sprinkling of sand and leaf mould through a screen. The box is then covered with a glass and shaded. In a very short time examination will show that the seeds are germinating. If there is any difficulty connected with the growing of *Meconopsis* it is at this stage. I have seen many boxes of seedlings dampen off overnight (I avoid this by the use of iron.—E.H.P.). Success is assured once this stage is past. As the seeds germinate air must be given them. Many seeds are not covered, and it will be necessary to give them another light sprinkling of sand and leaf mould. Sufficient water is applied to settle this cover over the seedlings. The box must be kept in a shady position and watered really only when necessary. The first leaf soon appears.

"At this stage the seedlings should be transplanted. Boxes two inches deep are used with a compost similar to that used for the seed bed.

The seedlings are transplanted two inches apart and allowed to grow on. When they begin to crowd in the box they are potted in two and one-half inch pots and allowed to grow prior to being planted into the garden. From the outset they must be grown in filtered sunlight. Direct sunlight will cause a burning of the foliage. In the garden I grow them on the north (on the south here.—E.H.P.) side of conifers. Plenty of leaf mould is incorporated in the soil and good drainage is essential. There are varied opinions regarding soil suitable for *Meconopsis*. Peat and leaf mould is usually recommended. With one lot of seedlings I mixed a generous portion of lime rubble. I could see no ill effects due to the addition of lime. Well-rotted cow manure was used with another lot. The effect of this additional fertility was remarkable in growth, color of foliage and quality and texture of flower.”—A. F. Emberley, Ayers Cliff, Que.

Such then are the methods adopted to bring this lovely flower to perfection. Some day these plants will be as easy to grow as *Primula malacoides*, and that day is not far distant.—(Garden Lover; Australian.)

SOME UNUSUAL PLANTS

By John A. Armstrong

On the dry barren hillsides of Madeira and the Canary Islands off the northwest corner of Africa grow the odd looking flowering plants called *Echiums*. Conditions here in Southern California seem to be much the same as in those islands, and the *Echiums* seem to thrive exceedingly well here with us. They are unusual in appearance to say the least, one variety, *Echium wildpretii*, sending up a tall compact pyramidal spike of rosy-red flowers, 3 to 5 feet high, from a large basal rosette of leaves, while *Echium fastuosum*, sometimes called “Pride of Madeira,” produces many great feathery spikes of bright blue flowers, each spike 3 feet high.

Both of these *Echiums* are exceedingly fine for our Southern California gardens, and they are exceedingly different from any other flowering plant in their proportions and habit of growth. They somehow seem to me to be linked with dinosaurs and other long since extinct species of prehistoric times. At any rate they are plants that still cause a mild sensation in garden where they are planted but do not give them too much water—they like dry soil.

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I seem to be describing in this column plants that are very much out-of-the-ordinary, and the next one certainly answers that description, being known variously as “New Zealand Lobster Claw,” “Red Parrot Bill,” and “Australian Glory Pea.” The botanical name is *Clianthus puniceus* and it makes a 4 foot shrub of loose habit, which produces at intervals all through the year extremely unusual flowers of rich crimson, each flower 3 inches long and borne in clusters of eight. If you cut off a bunch of brilliant red lobster claws or parrot’s bills and hang them up in a cluster, you will get an idea of about what these flowers look like and where the plant gets its descriptive common names. It is a plant which is quite hardy and will grow easily in any sunny, well drained place. I have seen it blooming all winter long in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. It is said that this plant has never been found in the truly wild state but that for many years it has been cultivated because of the beauty of its flowers by the Maori tribes of New Zealand.

GRASS SPECIALISTS GIVE LAWN RENOVATING POINTS

For homeowners who plan to renovate their lawns this year instead of making a new lawn, the United States Department of Agriculture says the four main considerations are fertilizing, top dressing, mowing, and watering. If a lawn is reasonably clear of weeds and has at least half a stand of fairly evenly distributed grass, renovation is worthwhile.

For fertilizer, the Department recommends sheep or poultry manure, commercial fertilizer known as "complete" fertilizer that is high in nitrogen such as 6-8-4, or plain nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia. Complete fertilizer is recommended particularly if phosphate and potash have not been applied in the past year. Lawns require much nitrogen during the growing season and can be rushed then, but it is not advisable to do much fertilizing in the hot summer months. Fertilizer is best applied by mixing it with pulverized soil and scattering it broadcast over the lawn. It is important to spread it evenly over the lawn, or the grass will be dark green in spots and light green in other places.

Top dressing a lawn consists of filling all the small depressions and uneven places with good soil or a mixture of soil and manure.

Don't mow lawns too closely, the Department says. This is especially important if there is crabgrass in the lawn, because the crabgrass can thrive when clipped short, but the lawn grass cannot do as well. Setting the mower so that it cuts the grass about 1½ inches high is satisfactory. Frequent mowing does not hurt a lawn if the grass is not cut too short.

The Department grass specialists say there is a difference between watering a lawn and sprinkling it. They suggest soaking the lawn once a week rather than sprinkling it every day so that the roots of the grass will go deeper and so be better able to withstand hot weather.

THE PLANT WORLD IN FLORIDA

From the Manuscripts of Dr. Henry Nehrling, collected and edited by Alfred and Elizabeth Kay. (The Macmillan Company, 1933; \$3.50.)

From Dr. Nehrling's extensive and considered experience as embodied in his abundant Mss., the editors have compiled what is nearly tantamount to a hortus of the ornamental plants of southern Florida. As such it cannot fail to be of very great interest likewise to

horticulturists in all other warm-temperate and semi-tropical regions, particularly our own. A good many of the plants described are unfamiliar to most of us, in fact quite often demand soils which we cannot offer to near-tropical conditions just a bit beyond us; nevertheless there is a large residue of very real interest and value to southern California. In botanical nomenclature author and editors have perhaps been ultra-conservative, but the inclusion in parentheses of many of the alternative or more lately approved names, together with the very full index, is evidently designed to meet possible criticisms on this point. The chapter on palms is particularly full, sympathetic, and useful, in fact very nearly the feature of the book. A larger number of illustrations would have been an improvement in a work of so inclusive a nature, but those utilized are all excellent. The frontispiece is a particularly charming, informal portrait of Dr. Nehrling himself.

S. S. B.

SMOKE TREE

Where there is smoke, there is usually fire, but not always, and one of these exceptions is that handsome shrub the Smoke Tree, which is rarely seen in California gardens but which is the joy and pride of those fortunate gardeners who possess one. Just imagine a rather large shrub which grows from 8 to 12 feet high and as much across and which looks like an immense cloud of billowing purple smoke, this smoke being made up of a myriad of little flowers on purplish stemmed panicles. It is a shrub which loses its leaves in the winter, is easily grown anywhere, and does best in a sunny dry situation, which we have most of in nearly all of our California gardens.

John A. Armstrong.

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CLIMBING ROSES

By G. A. Stevens

(The Macmillan Co., 1933; \$2.00)

Those who already possess that splendid little book, "How to Grow Roses," will find this an exceedingly useful companion volume. The treatment is very complete, beginning with a discussion of the types and history of climbing roses, and ending with an extensive and valuable descriptive reference list of varieties. The chapter on the use of these roses is particularly good as is likewise the one which follows it dealing with the subject of supports of all types and their proper construction. We are rather surprised to find the use of manures advocated for the original planting soil, this being distinctly contrary to what we have thought our own best experience. Pruning is not advised before the third year. The so-called Climbing Hybrid Perpetuals are saluted as "the greatest achievement so far attained in the effort to produce a perfect climbing rose," yet for the South it is the Noisettes and their derivatives which the author still considers the loveliest of all. The illustrations are numerous, including many in color, and for the most part are so happily chosen and so well executed that they would be successful in carrying almost any kind of context. Attention should be called to the fact that a special category of sports, "bud-sports," are confused with the more general term in the definitions attempted on page 29. We can't have too many good books about roses and are delighted to welcome this one.

S. S. B.

THE CURIOUS GARDENER

By Jason Hill

(Faber and Faber Ltd., London, 1932; 7s 6d.).

The unique charm of a certain group of peculiarly English garden books is well exemplified by this most welcome addition to our too short shelf of them. It is a book of varied lore told in a personal, simple, and withal a most delightful way. The author makes a stirring plea for plants of the olden time, especially roses, as interesting to us now not alone for their history and quaintness, but quite as often for their very real and intrinsic if, for the moment, not quite fashionable beauty. He is manifestly right in urging that these should not be allowed to perish from our gardens. Leaving these we find the author dis-

cussing with subtle humor various plants of no particular history but strange and bizarre quality in themselves. With so much lately written on the topic of fragrance it is surprising yet indicative of the rich wealth of the subject, how much that is at once fresh and informing, Mr. Hill has contrived to present in his happy chapter on "The Invisible Garden." Other headings include Fastigate Trees and Green Flowers, and it is a discouraged and soured gardener indeed who cannot respond within himself with much sympathetic amusement to the final brief essay on "Trouble in the Garden." Literary charm is the keynote which locks all these odd and varying topics into a harmonious whole, causing us to yearn for more from the same author. It nearly goes without saying that the book is beautifully printed and bound.

S. S. B.

GARDENING WITH HERBS FOR FLAVOR AND FRAGRANCE

By Helen Morgenthau Fox

(The Macmillan Co., 1933; \$3.50)

No book could call to mind one of the old-time herbals more than this. In concept, in spirit, even to the plan of treating each individual herb by paragraphic description (under the headings: root, leaf, flower, history and legend, uses, culture) it is truly one with them. Its modernity, and after all it is frankly a modern work, is shown in the fresh, vivacious style. Without desiring to use a good but sadly abused word in its more superficial sense, it may be said that the author has succeeded in imbuing a quaint and often dusty subject with the feeling and enthusiasm of the true amateur. Out of the myriad plants which in various lands and places man has seen fit to use for their savor, less than a hundred have been chosen by Mrs. Fox for her *Dramatis Personae*. It is consequently impossible to expect all one's personal pets to be among the select (we do wish our own yerba buena had been included), but the list is a well diversified and interesting one nevertheless. Best of all, we are told not only how to grow the plants, but how to utilize them. Merely to read over some of the many recipes offered is to start one all a drooling to try them. Not least in lending charm to the book are the numerous pleasing illustrations drawn after the manner of old wood-cuts, and the series of whimsical salutations contributed by divers well-known authors to its initial pages. One or two of these are, quite in their own way, masterpieces.

S. S. B.

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